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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,273	07/31/2001	Klaus Hofrichter	80398.P456	5706

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EXAMINER

VAN HANDEL, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/920,273	Applicant(s) HOFRICHTER ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael Van Handel	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The specification lacks adequate description of what a “digital content connection” is and how it differs from a “digital connection.”

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims **1-4, 6-25, 27-46, 48-67, 69-77** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis.

Referring to claims **1, 6, 7, 10, 22, 27, 28, 31, 43, 48, 49, 52, 64, 69, 70, 71, and 74,**

Lewis discloses a system/method comprising:

- a storage module 14 for receiving encoded video and audio data through a first digital connection (p. 14, paragraphs 142, 143)(Fig. 7);
- a decoder module for processing said encoded data in response to a request from a user to obtain a plurality of analog signals (p. 13, paragraph 139)(p. 15, paragraphs 158, 159), said processing comprising:
 - o decoding said encoded data to obtain decoded data; and

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- converting said decoded data into said plurality of signals (8, paragraphs 83, 85); and
- a converter module for transmitting said plurality of signals to an analog display device through a second analog connection (p. 15, paragraph 159)(Figs. 1, 2a, 6, 7).

Referring to claims **2, 4, 17, 23, 25, 38, 44, 46, 59, 65, and 67**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 1, 22, 43, and 64, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data from a computer system through said first digital connection, and wherein said first digital connection is an external bus connection, which supports IEEE 1394 (FIREWIRE) serial bus standard (p. 14, paragraph 142).

Referring to claims **3, 24, 45, and 66**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 1, 22, 43, and 64, respectively, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data from a server operated by a service provider through said first digital connection (col. 12, paragraphs 131)(Fig. 6).

Referring to claims **8, 9, 29, 30, 50, and 51**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 1, 22, and 43, wherein said processing further comprises storing said encoded data in a storage module, and wherein said storage module is a dedicated audio/video capable hard disk storage unit (p. 15, paragraph 157).

Referring to claims **11, 12, 18, 32, 33, 39, 53, 54, 60, 72, 73, and 75**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 1, 22, 43, and 65, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request from a computer system through said first digital connection. Lewis also

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discloses receiving said request via an input signal from a remote control device handled by said user (p. 8, paragraph 81).

Referring to claims **13, 34, and 55**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 10, 31, and 52, respectively, wherein said decoding further comprises:

- storing video data of said decoded data in a frame buffer together with graphics data associated with said video data (p. 17, paragraphs 178, 179); and
- transmitting audio data of said decoded data to a converter module (p. 13, paragraph 139).

Referring to claims **14, 35, and 56**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 13, 34, and 55, respectively, wherein said converting further comprises:

- retrieving said video data and said graphics data from said frame buffer; and
- converting said audio data, said video data, and said graphics data into said plurality of signals (p. 15, paragraph 159).

Referring to claims **15, 16, 36, 37, 57, and 58**, Lewis discloses the method according to claims 1, 22 and 43, wherein each signal of said plurality of signals is an analog signal and wherein the said second connection is an analog connection (p. 13, paragraph 139).

Referring to claims **19, 40, 61, and 76**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 1, 22, 43, and 72, respectively, wherein said encoded data is audio/video data in a compressed format (p. 9, paragraph 88).

Referring to claims **20, 41, and 62**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 13, 22, and 55, respectively, wherein said video data is stored in said frame buffer for a predetermined period of time prior to being transmitted to said display device (the examiner

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notes that Lewis discloses an Instant replay function that is programmable to review a pre-selected or pre-programmed number of seconds or minutes of programs being viewed in real time)(p. 22, paragraph 229).

Referring to claims **21, 42, 63, and 77**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 13, 22, 43, and 64, respectively, wherein said display device is a television set (p. 12, paragraph 130).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **5, 26, 47, 68** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis.

Referring to claims **5, 26, 47, and 68**, Lewis discloses the system/method according to claims 1, 22, 43, and 64, respectively. Lewis does not disclose that the first digital connection is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection. The examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known within the art to send and receive data via a USB connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Lewis to include a USB connection such as that taught by the art in order make the system compatible with a commonly used network bus.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Van Handel whose telephone number is 571.272.5968.

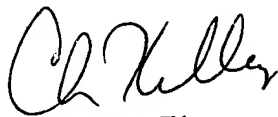
The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571.272.7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Van Handel
Examiner
Art Unit 2617

MVH


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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